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General Assembly

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Sixtieth session
Items 54, 58 and 66 of the preliminary list*

Sustainable development

Eradication of poverty and other development issues

Advancement of women

Identical letters dated 18 May 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to inform you of the establishment of a trust fund for non-governmental organizations to assist them in strengthening their capacities to eradicate poverty, ameliorate the livelihood of poor families and communities and reinforce the role of women in sustainable development. The genesis of this initiative was the Doha Conference for Non-Governmental Organizations, held in Doha, Qatar, from 4 to 6 March 2002. Consequently, to carry out this vision, her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser al-Missnad, Consort of His Highness the Emir of the State of Qatar, established the above-mentioned trust fund, which provides opportunities for non-governmental organizations to buttress their pivotal roles in development activities.

I would be grateful if you would circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, for information purposes, under items 54, 58 and 66 of the preliminary list.

(*Signed*) Nassir Abdulaziz **Al-Nasser**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/60/50 and Corr.1.

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Annex to the identical letters dated 18 May 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly

[Original: Arabic]

Trust fund for non-governmental organizations working in the field of development

The vision

Desiring to ensure a brighter future for nations, individuals, families and societies, strengthen the contribution of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to economic and social development and overcome the obstacles that hinder development activities throughout the world, several public figures, organizations and representatives of States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) have developed a common vision on the occasion of the Doha Conference for Non-Governmental Organizations, held in March 2002 on the topic of the complementary role of non-governmental, governmental and international organizations in sustainable development.

The purpose of this Conference, held at the initiative of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), a key element of OIC, and of the Social Development Center, an essential part of the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, was to highlight the existing complementarities among non-governmental, governmental and international organizations in providing assistance to the poorest sectors of society and to find ways of strengthening NGO efforts to improve the living conditions of poor people. The Conference made several recommendations, one of which concerns the establishment of a trust fund to support NGOs working in the field of development and their programmes in the area of women's empowerment.

The concept

The Fund was established at the initiative of Her Highness, Sheikha Moza bint Nasser Al-Missnad, wife of His Highness, the Emir of Qatar. She spoke at the opening session of the Conference on the complementary role of non-governmental, governmental and international organizations in sustainable development and stressed the importance of a comprehensive strategy for combating poverty and strengthening NGO institutions so that they can play a leading role in the fields of development and economics, thereby benefiting societies and individuals.

The participants recommended the establishment of this fund. On that occasion, Her Highness, Sheikha Moza bint Nasser al-Missnad, made the first contribution in the amount of one million Qatar riyals.

The competent committee, which comprises representatives of the Social Development Center and IDB, then commenced follow-up to and implementation of these recommendations and took decisions concerning the creation, composition and functioning of the Fund.

The committee decided that advocacy for the Fund would be conducted between March 2005 and March 2006 and that the Fund's establishment would be officially announced at the Founders' Assembly, to be held on 20 and 21 March 2006.

The Fund's objectives

- To finance NGO-developed projects aimed at poverty alleviation and improvement in the living conditions of poor rural and urban dwellers;
- To provide support and capacity-building for NGOs and women's groups; and
- To strengthen the role of NGOs and women's groups in efforts to publicize projects financed by the Fund and in the implementation of those projects.

The Fund's resources

- The Fund's resources are provided by IDB and through grants and donations from governments, the private sector, organizations, businesses and individuals.
- All payments made in reimbursement of sums allocated from the Fund's resources and income from investment of its capital are added to its resources.

The Fund's administration

- The Fund is administered by IDB through its Donors' Council and Board of Executive Directors and the President of that Board.

Composition of the Donors' Council

The Donors' Council is composed of members, including IDB, which make individual or group donations to the Fund in amounts not less than one million United States dollars.

Initial capital

The initial capital, as of the establishment of the Fund, was set at 51 million dollars.

Awareness-raising activities during the period May 2005 to May 2006

Activities aimed at increasing awareness of the Fund began in March 2005 and involved many participants, including individuals, bodies and organizations working at the local, regional and international levels. These activities will continue until March 2006 and will culminate in an announcement of the Fund's establishment at the Donors' Assembly, to be held in Doha on 20 and 21 March 2006.

Constitutive Assembly of the Fund for non-governmental organizations working in the field of development

The Assembly's objectives

- To officially announce the Fund's establishment and to publicize its objectives;
- To attract founders of and contributors to the Fund; and

– To publicize the role of NGOs and promote a culture of support for their activities through donations.

Date of the Assembly

20 and 21 March 2006

Participation

Donors and founders, including individuals and organizations; international and regional organizations; and representatives of the primary NGOs working in the field of social action for development are invited to participate in the Assembly.